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ACTION EB-00

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AID-00	ARA-01	A-00
	ACQ-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CEA-01	CG-00	COME-00	CTME-00
	INL-01	DINT-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EXIM-01	E-00
	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	FRB-00	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	INSE-00	IO-00	ITC-01	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	MMP-00
	M-00	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OES-01	OIC-02
	OIS-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00
	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	USSS-00	ASDS-01	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-04
	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/036W			

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R 302248Z JUN 98
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3812
INFO DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 007526

ENERGY FOR HANK SANTIAGO AND DAVID PUMPHREY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/30/98

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TAGS: EPET, ENRG, PTER, PHUM, PINS, CO
SUBJECT: FARC JOINS ELN IN TARGETING COLOMBIA'S PETROLEUM
INFRASTRUCTURE

REF: BOGOTA 6091

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR CURTIS W. KAMMAN. REASON 1.5 (D).

1. (U) ON JUNE 29 BOGOTA DAILY "EL TIEMPO" REPORTED THAT FARC

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 18 MAY 2004 200303455

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GUERRILLAS HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENT TO JOIN THE ELN IN DISRUPTING THE COUNTRY'S PETROLEUM INFRASTRUCTURE, SPECIFICALLY TARGETING THE CANO LIMON PIPELINE AND OPERATIONS IN ARAUCA DEPARTMENT. (NOTE. IN THE PAST, OIL PIPELINE ATTACKS HAVE LARGELY BEEN THE DOMAIN OF THE ELN). WHILE THE IDEOLOGICAL UNDERPINNINGS OF THE FARC'S STRATEGY MIRROR THOSE OF THE ELN (TO DENY FOREIGN COMPANIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLOIT COLOMBIA'S NATURAL RESOURCES), FARC SPOKESMEN SAY THE TWO GUERRILLA GROUPS ARE NOT WORKING IN CONCERT, NOR ARE THEY COMPETING AGAINST ONE ANOTHER IN THE AREA. "EL TIEMPO" REPORTS THAT SEVEN OF THE 33 PIPELINE ATTACKS SO FAR THIS YEAR -- FIVE ON ONE DAY ALONE, FORCING A SHUT DOWN IN OPERATIONS -- HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE FARC. (NOTE. THIS NUMBER PUTS 1998 ON TRACK TO MATCH LAST YEAR'S ALL-TIME RECORD OF 64 PIPELINE ATTACKS. END NOTE.)

2. (C) COMMENT: REFTEL REPORTS THE AMBASSADOR'S MAY 19 MEETING WITH OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM EXECUTIVES IN WHICH THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT FARC ATTACKS ON THEIR INSTALLATIONS IN ARAUCA. OCCIDENTAL EXECUTIVES OPINED, CONTRARY TO FARC DISCLAIMERS, THAT THERE IS ACTIVE COMPETITION BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS FOR CONTROL OF ARAUCA. (NOTE. IN FACT, THE FARC AND THE ELN RECENTLY SUPPORTED COMPETING LIBERAL PARTY CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR OF ARAUCA'S CAPITAL.

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THE ELN CONTROLLED CANDIDATE WON. END NOTE.) THERE IS CERTAINLY A CLEAR INCENTIVE FOR THE FARC TO MOVE IN, AS THE ELN HAS MADE A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY IN THE AREA FROM TARGETING THE MULTINATIONAL FIRMS OPERATING THERE. AN ADDITIONAL INCENTIVE MAY BE TO SQUEEZE THE GOC. GIVEN THE COUNTRY'S CURRENT FISCAL DEFICIT CRISIS AND ITS DEPENDENCE ON (DECLINING) OIL REVENUES, DISRUPTING THE VULNERABLE PIPELINE MAY SERVE AS A NOT-SO-SUBTLE REMINDER FROM THE GUERRILLAS THAT THEY ARE THE ONES DEALING FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH GOING INTO ANY POSSIBLE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.
KAMMAN

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